THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 17th September 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Constitution of village food committees.

*16 *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO (on behalf of Sri D. Manjaya Hegde) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether, in constituting the village food committees, the Tahsildars have been given any special instructions by the Government as to the selection of the members of the committees;

(*b*) if so, what they are;

(*c*) whether members related to each other, such as landlord and tenant, master and servant, father and son, etc., are allowed to be the members of the village committees; and

(*d*) whether there is any proposal to reconstitute such committees in the light of experience gained so far?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) They are :

(1) The Tahsildar should convene a meeting of the villagers and in consultation with them should select really representatives and influential men without regard to their political affiliations.

(2) He should consult the resident legislators of the taluk in which the villages are situated.

(3) In case of a difference of opinion between the legislators and the Tahsildar, he should take the sense of the village and select representatives.

(4) He should exclude all vested interests.

" (*c*) There is no prohibition as such. But the Tahsildars have been instructed to keep out all vested interests.

" (*d*) The matter is under consideration."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :— " May I know, Sir, what the Government exactly mean by ' vested interests '? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government mean that vested interests are interests in which there is some interest by people concerned in it."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know whether there are any people who are not interested in the administration of food in any manner or other? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, there are those who take food and those who vend food. Those who vend food are more interested than those who take it."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact that when there is a conflict between the legislators and the villagers concerned, preference is always given to the opinion of the legislators with the result that political affiliation plays a great part in the constitution of these village committees? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not see that any conflict between the villagers and the legislators can arise in a committee. The choice is left to the Tahsildar who acts under instructions from the Government and it is always open to the aggrieved party to represent the facts to the Government if there is any injustice."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know whether it is not a fact that even after the villagers have expressed their opinion in regard to the selection of all the candidates legislators have intervened and their opinion had prevailed. There are even cases in which legislators had intervened even after the committees had been constituted and the Presidents of Committees had been elected? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member probably wants a general answer to the question."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, were there occasions when Government had to intervene and restore a person who is not popular with the local representatives in the villages? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is again a general question to answer."

The Tungabhadra Project.

* 17 *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of wet area that was expected to be irrigated by the Tungabhadra project when it was first taken up or inaugurated ;

(*b*) why that area has been reduced now;

(*c*) the area (wet and dry) that will be irrigated in His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Dominions under the project ;

(*d*) the quantity of electrical energy that will be developed for utilization in the said area ;

(*e*) why the high-level canal is given up ;

(*f*) (i) what is the quantity of water impounded in the Tungabhadra Reservoir;

(ii) how much is utilized for irrigation in Bellary and Kurnool districts;